Off-Loading of shares of BHEL

*36. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to off-load 10 per cent of its share in Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd;

(b) if so, whether any share thereof has been set aside for the employees and the small investors; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be raised from this sell off and how the proceeds would be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided on an 'offer for sale' of 10% equity of BHEL out of Government holding of 67.72% through 'book building' process.

(b) Upto 15% of the equity offered for sale will be reserved for the employees of BHEL. Allocation of shares to retail investors would be in accordance with norms stipulated by Securities and Exchange Board of India.

(c) The amount that would be raised would depend upon the market conditions at the actual time of the 'offer for sale'. The proceeds would go into the National Investment Fund, the income from which would be deployed to finance selected social sector schemes and for capital investment in selected profitable and revivable public sector enterprises.

Bio-Diesel Fund

*37. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to allot Rs. 1400 crore for bio-diesel fund;

(b) if so, which is the nodal department to monitor this project; and

(c) how far the use of the diesel has been found technically satisfactory in transportation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had set up a Committee on Development of Bio-fuel which recommended the launching of a National Mission on Bio-diesel with special focus on the plantation of Jatropha Curcas. The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry for the proposed National Mission on Bio-diesel and that Ministry has had a Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared. The Planning Commission have recently received the DPR for 'in principle' approval. Any allocation for bio-diesel fund by the Government would become due only after the project receives approval in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Government.

(c) Field trials conducted by oil marketing companies with bio-diesel blended diesel in the transportation sector have yielded statisfactory results.

River water integration plan

†*38. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared full outlines of River water integration plan; and

(b) the details of the plan including the target fixed therein?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) has not prepared any plan by the name of 'River Water Integration Plan'. However, (MOWR) (erstwhile Minsitry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission (CWC) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging interbasin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basin/areas which comprises of two components namely Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and to give concrete shape to it. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has indentified 30 links for preparing Feasibility Reports (FRs). NWDA has completed feasibility reports for 14 links under Peninsular Rivers

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.